

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application.

Initially, the Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 3-5, 10, 14-17, 20-22, 27 and 31-34 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 3 and 20 are allowable for providing the step of grinding to a desired caliper.

Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to include the limitation, "grinding at least a surface of the belt structure to a desired caliper." Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that revised claims 1 and 18 are allowable. In addition, claims 2-17 that depend from claim 1 and claims 19-34 that depend from claim 18 are allowable therewith.

It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct from the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The remarks made herein are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 or 112, but rather the amendments and remarks made herein are simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present invention unpatentable.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

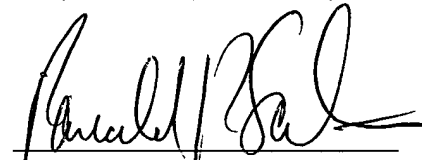
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and an early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald R. Santucci', written over a horizontal line.

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